

62 *POPULAR CULTURE I.*
KARNATAKA

up the children they have borne and
cease to look
after them because the children are silly. "
If I your
servant am ignorant may you, Lord, leave
me without
protection? Tell me Purandara VittalaS"
"I shall
not let go of your feet," he says in
another piece,
*^k whatever you do I shall cling to you, for
yours is
the task of taking me across."

The state of mind of the devotee when
he has
given up the way of the world as no way for
him, and
has not felt the assurance of realisation, is
described
by Puraiidaradasa in vivid metaphor in a
well-known
song. He had not found the nest nor the
track that
led to it. Run away were both wives, and
the walls
of the house had fallen and its place was
empty. Alas,
he had missed here nor ate there porridge
and ghee.
Like the pot of ghee dropping a-sudden on
the dung-
hill had been his life. He felt great distress
but awoke
not within. Like a ball of jaggery falling
into fire
and being reduced to ashes had life been.
Peace in
God was gone nor knew he what luxury
was in store
for him in future. His mind had forsaken
thought of
the eternal Lord and had become barren.
He cries in
one place that he is as the insect that has
fallen into
the fire and begs God to take him out and
save him.
He asks God why He had dragged him into
this world.
Why could He not look after him in heaven,
why did

He give him birth? Elsewhere the same
mood finds
even fuller expression. That God was
merciful he
was somehow not quite sure, seeing that He
was giving
this body again and again and was making
him wander
and was trying him so. He had been told
that God
saved in the past, beasts of the field and
men and